ELEMENTARY GENETICS. By W. Ralph Singleton. (Pp. xiii + 482; illustrated. 64s.) Princeton, N.J., and London: D. van Norstrand, 1962.

THERE is no doubt that this is a thoroughly competent introduction to genetics planned for students of biology. It is abundantly illustrated, supported by examples from general biology and thoroughly up to date. There are over two hundred figures and some are in superb colour. It is the work of an experienced teacher who develops the subject logically, and questions at the end of each chapter enable the reader to test his progress. The approach is refreshingly free from difficult mathematical considerations. While valuable to the student of biology the medical man must be warned that it is not all easy reading and this broad understanding of biology is not to be acquired in a few easy sessions.

FOOTPRINTS ON THE SANDS OF TIME, 1863-1963: THE STORY OF THE HOUSE OF LIVINGSTONE. Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1963.

IT is with special pleasure that we record this volume celebrating the centenary of the House of Livingstone. With it we have received the special catalogue of 160 pages listing over four hundred titles. This slim volume, itself a superb example of the bookmaker's art, is an interesting account of the growth of the House of Livingstone from the bookseller's shop to the great organisation which now so well presents so much of British medicine to the whole world. Only those who, as authors, have watched with anxiety the role of the publisher as midwife in the birth of their brain child know the importance of that work. As numerous reviews in this Journal have testified, the House of Livingstone have consistently maintained the very highest standards of presentation and publication. The catalogue shows how many famous authors and books are, and have been, published by the House of Livingstone and how completely the whole of medicine is covered by their publications.

ILLUSTRATED PHYSIOLOGY. By Ann B. McNaught, M.B., Ch.B., Ph.D., M.I.Biol., and Robin Callander, F.F.Ph. (Pp. viii + 287. 30s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1963.

EVERY page carries black and white line drawings and a few are multicoloured. These illustrations incorporate text material which is often very detailed. The whole represents a most interesting experiment in visual presentation. A considerable number of the illustrations are sufficiently easy to attract and to be of value to junior students, nurses and medical auxiliaries. These can be understood immediately by more senior students and would be useful for teaching or revision. In others the amount of text tends to detract from the illustrations and detailed study and even some knowledge of the subject is necessary.

Many of the students for whom this book has been prepared have no opportunity to acquire a detailed, first-hand knowledge of structural anatomy. This attempt to supply a structural basis for the understanding of physiology is valuable, and the need for it an interesting commentary on the value of a combined approach to form and function.

CANCER: A GENERAL GUIDE TO RESEARCH AND ITS TREATMENT. Edited by Professor N. N. Petrov. (Pp. xvi + 387; figs. 102. 80s.) Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1962.

THIS book, produced by Professor Petrov and his colleagues at the Institute of Oncology of the Academy of Medical Sciences of the U.S.S.R., covers a very wide field ranging through concepts of tumour growth, spread, morphology, oncogenesis, diagnosis and therapy to prophylaxis. Few of the facts will be entirely new, but some of the views expressed and the emphasis placed on them will be unusual to western workers. They are of some interest, but are rarely expressed in sufficient detail to allow of critical assessment. The quality of many of the illustrations and their significance adds little to the presentation. This book will be of interest to many, but cannot be recommended as a guide for detailed study.